

(f) It is pertinent to mention that maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate in Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes are vested with Police. Thus, the Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

However, to provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, Railways is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort trains and on access control duties at Railway Stations with effect from 1st July, 2004. The Railway Protection Force staff is being deployed to escort about 1400 trains on an average in addition to about 2200 trains being escorted on an average by Government Railway Police.

During the period from July, 2004 to December, 2006, the Railway Protection Force staff have arrested 209 criminals indulging in drugging, 442 criminals in luggage lifting, 150 criminals in carrying illegal arms, 153 criminals in chain snatching and 142 criminals in pick-pocketing and handed over to the concerned Railway Police for taking further legal action.

Sensitive railway stations

3336. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force had identified 170 railway stations across the country as sensitive and had prepared detailed proposals for each of the 16 zonal railways;

(b) whether all Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains would be equipped with wireless internet services free of cost to passengers in the high-end trains and also provide full protection and safety measures;

(c) to what extent these steps have improved the security of the railways; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has been helpful and successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. In fact, 185 Railway Stations (and not just

170) including 17 metro stations over Indian Railways have been identified as vulnerable and where security systems are proposed to be upgraded.

(b) As of now, there is no such proposal with Ministry of Railways.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Summer tour programme

3337. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has introduced this year a three pronged Summer Tour Programme in collaboration with the Southern Railway;

(b) whether this three pronged programme which covers Chennai-Coimbatore-Velparai-Anaimalai, Chennai-Kodaikanal-Munnar-Thekkadi, Chennai-Ooty-Mudhumalai routes be developed into a four pronged one, if not, during this summer at least from the next summer;

(c) whether the fourth route can cover Chennai-Rameswaram-Kanyakumari-Courtallum; and

(d) whether this fourth pronged programme will receive a favoured treatment from the Southern Railway since this would cover Kanyakumari, which forms the southern tip of our Motherland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced six tour programme in collaboration with the Southern Railway as under:-

- (i) Chennai-Mamallapuram-Pondicherry-Madurai-Kodaikanal-Thekkady-Kottayam-Trivandrum-Kanyakumari for 8 days/7 nights from Kolkata.
- (ii) Chennai-Mamallapuram-Pondicherry-Tanjore-Trichy-Kodaikanal-Madurai-Rameshwaram-Kanyakumari for 8 days/7 nights from Kolkata.
- (iii) Trivandrum-Kovaiam-Madurai-Kodaikanal-Thekkady-Munnar-Ernakulam for 8 days/7 nights from Mumbai and Delhi also.